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Amendments to the Claims

The following Listing of Claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): An electronic messaging system for filtering electronic messages, comprising

a message server operable to receive and transmit electronic messages including electronic mail messages, the message server comprising an access restriction filter comprising a character recognizer configured to translate characters in image components of respective ones of electronic messages into computer-readable character representations,

wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect an access restriction notice in the respective ones of the electronic messages by comparing the one or more translated computer-readable character representations respectively produced by the character recognizer to respective representations of one or more access restriction notices stored in memory, the access restriction filter being additionally configured to respond to the detection of the access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect in respective ones of the electronic messages an access restriction notice indicating ownership of at least a portion of the respective ones of the electronic messages.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The system of claim 2, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect a copyright notice in respective ones of the electronic messages.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The system of claim 3, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect the copyright notice by comparing one or more characters in the respective ones of the electronic messages to respective characters of one or more copyright notices stored in memory.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The system of claim 3, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect the copyright notice by comparing characters in a header component of the respective ones of the electronic messages with respective characters of the one or more stored copyright notices.

Claims 6-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): A method of filtering electronic messages, comprising:

translating characters in image components of respective ones of electronic messages into computer-readable character representations;

detecting an access restriction notice in the respective ones of the electronic messages by comparing the one or more translated computer-readable character representations to respective representations of one or more access restriction notices stored in memory; and

responding to the detection of the access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the detecting comprises detecting in respective ones of the electronic message an access restriction notice indicating ownership of at least a portion of the respective ones of the electronic messages.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 15, wherein the detecting comprises detecting a copyright notice in respective ones of the electronic messages.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the detecting comprises comparing one or more characters in the respective ones of the electronic messages to respective characters of one or more copyright notices stored in memory.

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Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the detecting comprises comparing characters in a header component of the respective ones of the electronic messages with respective characters of the one or more stored copyright notices.

Claims 19-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (previously presented): A computer-readable medium comprising computer-readable instructions for causing a computer to perform operations comprising:

translating characters in image components of respective ones of electronic messages into computer-readable character representations;

detecting an access restriction notice in the respective ones of the electronic messages by comparing the one or more translated computer-readable character representations to respective representations of one or more access restriction notices stored in memory; and

responding to the detection of the access restriction notice in accordance with a prescribed transmission policy for handling electronic messages containing the detected access restriction notice.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to detect at least one of the following access restriction notices in the electronic messages: a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the detecting comprises detecting at least one of the following access restriction notices in the electronic messages: a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The computer-readable medium of claim 29, wherein said code provides instructions for detecting in the electronic messages at least one of a "copyright" notice, a "confidential" notice, an "internal use only" notice, an "attorney-client privileged" notice, and an "attorney work product" notice.

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Claim 33 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the electronic messages comprises a primary message and at least one attachment, and the access restriction filter is configured to compare characters in the primary message and characters in the at least one attachment to respective characters of the one or more stored access restriction notices.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to trigger display of a report to a user in response to the detection of the access restriction notice.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The system of claim 34, wherein the access restriction filter is configured to trigger display to a user a message reporting that a corresponding one of the electronic messages cannot be transmitted because of the detection of the access restriction.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the responding comprises displaying a report to a user in response to the detection of the access restriction notice.

Claim 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 36, wherein the responding comprises displaying to a user a message reporting that a corresponding one of the electronic messages cannot be transmitted because of the detection of the access restriction.

Claim 38 (new): The system of claim 1, wherein character recognizer configured to translate characters in image components of respective ones of electronic mail messages into computer-readable character representations, and the access restriction filter is configured to detect an access restriction notice in the respective ones of the electronic mail messages by comparing the one or more translated computer-readable character representations respectively produced by the character recognizer to respective representations of one or more access restriction notices stored in memory.